



Items from the Archive: Exploring the Extreme Right in the West Midlands

Municipal Election 19

SMITH	X
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BRISTNALL WARD

DONALD WILLIAM SMITH aged 42 years served five years in the R.A.F. and works in engineering at a local firm. Born and has lived all his life in the borough and feels most strongly about the decline in education, even though the people of Sandwell are paying what can only be described as extortionate rates. It is his intention if elected, to channel this money into sectors where it will be most beneficial to the community. If elected, National Front candidates do not accept attendance allowances.

Municipal Election 21

LIDDY	X
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BEARWOOD WARD

DANIEL A. LIDDY was born and bred in the area. He is married with a young daughter and lives in Bearwood. Educated at James Watt Technical School, he then obtained N.C.A. Now working in local transport and is a shop steward in the T.G.W.U. He feels that the extortionate rates bill that the residents of the ward are burdened with are blatantly wasted, especially the £10 attendance allowance paid to councillors for every meeting they attend. If elected he would certainly refuse this payment.

National Front

In the 1976 district elections in Sandwell around West Bromwich, the National Front fielded more candidates than any other third party, and achieved more votes than the other third parties combined by a substantial margin. In the Bearwood ward (Election leaflet shown) they came within 4% of taking a second place from the Labour party with 20.4% of the vote. This wasn't their highest vote share in the district though, that was achieved by Ms M. Williams in Warley's Soho ward.

The campaign in Sandwell District focused on local rate costs, councillor allowances and the National Front drive to push up education standards, in part through forcing all funding into state education and absorbing private/public schools into the state system to be, as their 1979 *Statement of Policy* pamphlet declares, 'centres of academic excellence, not bastions of privilege', with strong support for the selection criteria in the 1944 Education act which had provided Grammar schools.

May 1981

BRITAIN FOR THE BRITISH!

Unemployment, immigration, the banking swindle – the other candidates will tell you that these are not local election issues. But they lie!

- **PUT WHITES FIRST IN JOBS!**
Local Government is one of the biggest employers in the country. While thousands of White workers rot on the dole, councils employ thousands of Coloured Immigrants. Some local authorities even operate a policy of "reverse discrimination" – deliberately giving jobs to Blacks instead of Whites.
YOUR NATIONAL FRONT CANDIDATE also wants the council to discriminate – in favour of Whites. No council employment should go to Blacks while there are unemployed Britons who are willing and able to do the jobs. The council must also buy British-made equipment and vehicles, instead of buying foreign imports which are closing British factories and adding to unemployment. **BRITISH JOBS FOR BRITISH WORKERS!**
- **NO MORE MONEY FOR BLACKS!**
Many councils have actively encouraged Coloured immigration by giving special facilities to Blacks and by allowing them to jump to the top of housing waiting lists. At a time when pensioners' day centres and schools are being closed down, many local authorities are spending thousands of pounds on "community relations" projects and "Afro-Asian" centres. The Immigrant population is soaring. In many areas almost half the children now being born are black. This means that the Blacks are making ever increasing demands on Council spending – demands on YOUR rents and rates. Black riots, already common in cities like Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester, are now erupting in smaller towns as well.
YOUR NATIONAL FRONT CANDIDATE SAYS THIS MUST STOP. A National Front government will STOP IMMIGRATION and send all immigrants and their descendants back to their own countries. In the meantime, your National Front candidate will pressure the council to put Blacks and Asians to the bottom of the housing waiting list. It is a scandal that Coloured immigrants are housed while our pensioners live in damp, collapsing slums and young married couples have to live with their parents. **PUT BRITONS FIRST IN EDUCATION, HOUSING AND WELFARE.**

West Midlands County Council Election
Thursday 7th May, 1981
KINGS NORTON

JIM BROADFIELD, your National Front candidate, is a local man, 24 years old, Jim is a cabinet maker by trade, although, like so many people in Britain today, he is now unemployed as a result of insane Labour and Tory economic policies. Jim Broadfield has been in the National Front for six years and this has given him plenty of experience of the problems faced by the people of Birmingham – especially the young unemployed and our Old Folk. Jim says: "The Tory, Liberal and Labour parties have sat back and done nothing as Birmingham has become a bankrupt, multi-racial slum. If you want our city to have a future, vote National Front."
Jim promises that, if elected, he will pressure the council to discriminate in favour of White people. As he says, "We must put our own people first."

● **End bankers' racket – Stop soaring rents and rates!**
For years, corrupt and incompetent Councillors have tried to "solve" their financial problems by borrowing vast sums from private international Bankers. In 1979 the total owed by local government was a staggering £3.7 BILLION. In interest payments alone, local councils pay over £3,600,000,000 every year to the Banks. This comes out of your rent and rates. This is why you are paying higher and higher rent and rates for fewer and fewer services. The council has to spend more and more of your money on enriching international Bankers, instead of on essential services such as housing, education and road repairs.
YOUR NATIONAL FRONT CANDIDATE demands the establishment of a Municipal Bank to provide low-interest loans for the council. The entire system whereby private Banks create credit out of nothing and loan it into circulation as an interest-bearing debt is a swindle. Only the National Front will stop this. Credit creation must be restored to the Government. New credit issued must be related to the Gross National Product and must be spent into circulation debt free via public expenditure. **CUT BANKERS' PROFITS – NOT SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS!**
Don't be side-tracked by waffle about "cracked pavements". Vote on the issues that really matter. . . .
VOTE FOR YOUR OFFICIAL NATIONAL FRONT CANDIDATE

VOTE NATIONAL FRONT
VOTE JIM BROADFIELD X

I am interested in the possibility of joining the National Front, and would like to receive further details about NF policies. I enclose 30p for more information.

Name:

Address:

Printed by NF, PO Box 163, London EC2.
Published by J. Broadfield, 30 Corbyn Road, Birmingham 9.

This contrasts with this 1981 leaflet from Jim Broadfield's campaign in the West Midlands County Council Elections, covering the area of King's Norton in Birmingham. It loudly declares 'Britain for the British' and puts the blame for unemployment and high council service charges on non-white migration, going so far as to claim that non-white migration has turned Birmingham, like other cities such as Manchester and Liverpool, into a 'multi-racial slum'.

This pamphlet goes a step further and blamed everything on 'international Bankers' for creating the high rates, a standard anti-Semitic conspiracy theory. These theories do not seem to have gone down well with the people of Birmingham, securing just 1.2% of the vote.

August 18th 1977. 11

LADYWOOD BY-ELECTION
—A MESSAGE

From: **ANTHONY REED-HERBERT** – National Front Candidate
To: **ASIANS AND WEST INDIANS LIVING IN LADYWOOD**

As the National Front candidate in this by-election, I feel that you may be interested in an explanation of National Front policy on immigration and the repatriation of coloured immigrants.

You probably already know that I call for a complete halt to immigration and for the return of those immigrants and their dependants here already to the lands of their ethnic and racial origin.

Opponents of the National Front seek to distort and misrepresent this policy as being based on a hatred of coloured peoples; **THIS IS A LIE.** National Front policy is based, not upon hatred, but upon an honest recognition of the racial differences in mankind and a desire for a world where different peoples are free to make their own lives in their own countries in their own way. The National Front believes that you, as Asians or West Indians have this right to live in a nation and amongst people of your own. The National Front wishes you all the luck in the world in this respect. But we also say that the British people have this same right. We, the British, have the right to preserve OUR Nation, OUR people and OUR race. And this is the basis of National Front policy on immigration.

Successful Conservative and Labour governments assisted at every turn by the Liberals have imported coloured immigrants into Great Britain from Asia and the West Indies to keep down the wages of British workers and to create a pool of cheap immigrant labour. These Con/Lab/Lib traitors have NEVER consulted the British people nor obtained a mandate from them to carry out their immigration policies. They have lied to and cheated both YOU and US, both immigrants and British, and now they try to tell us that we must become a "multi-racial society" and like it!

But the British people DON'T like it! They know that multi-racialism has never worked in history and isn't working now. They know that the policies of the Con/Lab/Lib gang have just created strife, conflict and tension between Britons and immigrants where none existed before. The National Front speaks for these British people and, as the National Front candidate, I seek their vote in this election.

Our opponents say that we are racists. If by racists is meant that we are proud of our race and people and wish to preserve their identity and existence, then we certainly are proud to be racists. We hope that you are racists too, for multi-racialism spells doom for us all.

The National Front states its policy clearly. A National Front government will halt all immigration immediately and repatriate all immigrants now here back to their homelands. This will be done in a phased and humane fashion with the National Front government providing fares, assisted passages and guaranteed resettlement grants to each and every adult immigrant to assist the process. Unlike the other parties, we do NOT want to exploit you or let you exploit us. We want our Country back and we believe that the vast majority of immigrants will be glad to return to theirs. One of the immigrant candidates in this election has in fact said that in his opinion immigrants would welcome the chance to return to their own lands.

The Tory and Labour governments have cheated you out of your rights to the repatriation facilities that ALREADY EXIST under the Immigration Act 1971. They have allowed less than 800 immigrants to use these facilities. The National Front says that this is not enough. The plot to force unwanted multi-racialism upon you and the British people must and will be smashed!

As the National Front candidate in this by-election I implore you NOT to be deceived by the other parties. They seek to exploit you, to get your vote. Once in power they then forget about you as they have forgotten about the British people.

I hope you will not mind my being frank with you. It is in all our interests that I should be so. We in the National Front are fighting to win our Country back again for the British people. Do you, in your heart, think there is anything wrong with that?

ANTHONY REED-HERBERT is your National Front candidate
Printed and Published by Keith Jowsey, 6 Belmont Road, Warley, West Midlands

The use of racial messaging had been used by the National Front in Birmingham for some time though. Here we have an election address from Anthony Reed-Herbert for the Ladywood By-election of 1977. This message is directed specifically at the Asian and West Indian communities, asking for their votes so they might have the opportunity to repatriate.

One of their more successful elections, the by-election saw the NF safe their deposit and move into third place while the Liberal candidate narrowly lost his deposit. It didn't all go well for Reed-Herbert though, as the Socialist Unity candidate punched him at the count.

The archive also contains a photo collection we are in the process of organising ready for cataloguing. These two images show the Wolverhampton branch of the National Front marching (top, date unknown) and a NF supporter in Birmingham (bottom, c. 1981). The photos show that the National Front, as well as fighting elections, was also a street active group, involved in marches (and riots) across the Midlands.

